

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION

USE EXCLUSION

(ACRE)

CODE 472

I. SCOPE

The work shall consist of installing barriers, signs, and/or other devices to exclude traffic of people, animals or vehicles from an area as shown on the conservation plan map and design drawings (if needed).

II. EXCLUDED USES

Specify the kind(s) of use to be excluded:

- vehicle traffic
- human use
- livestock use(specify kind(s) of livestock)
- animals other than livestock (specify kind of animal)

III. PURPOSE OF USE EXCLUSION

Specify the reason(s) for which exclusion is necessary such as soil erosion, water quality concerns, resource protection, fish or wildlife enhancement, etc.

Identify the kind of area(s) to be protected. Applicable areas include, but are not limited to:

- **Forest Reproduction** - Protection of newly seeded, planted or naturally restocked woodland areas from animal damage
- **Special Resource Value Areas** - Natural areas; geologically fragile areas and areas having fragile soils; habitats of endangered plant or animal species; or designated wildlife habitats; which are specified for use exclusion.
- **Special Purpose Plantings** - Protection of plantings such as wind breaks and Christmas tree plantings, critical area plantings, or grassed waterways from animal damage.
- **Water Supply Areas** - Culinary water supply areas that are specified as a direct water supply for domestic or municipal purposes such as a spring or seep, wells, ponds, or community watersheds. Area may be designed by a unit of government or the landowner.

• **Recreation Areas** - Protection of recreation areas.

• **Riparian Areas** - Spring and seeps where protection is needed to prevent degradation. Streambank or shoreline areas associated with a natural or constructed watercourse or water body (lakes, ponds) where protection is needed to prevent bank or shoreline deterioration, to prevent pollution of these waters, or to prevent loss of fish habitat.

For areas where the purpose of use exclusion is to prevent sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants carried by runoff water from entering surface waters, standards and specifications for the conservation practice FILTER STRIP (Code 393) will be followed.

IV. DURATION OF EXCLUSION

The period of time for which exclusion is necessary to achieve practice objective(s) is to be specified.

Forest Reproduction - The exclusion period will be until at least 80% of the desired trees have reached a height beyond the reach of browsing animals. In general, a 3-foot height is sufficient to protect trees from sheep, and a 5-foot height is needed to protect trees from cattle.

Special Resource Values - Permanent exclusion, or exclusion for the period of time the resource value exists.

Special Purpose Planting - Use is excluded for the life of the planting.

Water Supply Areas - Permanent exclusion, or exclusion for as long as the area is designated or used as a water supply area.

Recreation Area - Exclusion is for the life of the recreation area.

Riparian Areas - Protection is permanent or until prescribed grazing is applied that will provide needed protection as determined by an NRCS technician having appropriate job approval authority.

V. LOCATION OF BARRIERS

Barriers will be placed on firm ground that offers a stable footing.

Barriers will be placed above the normal high-water line of streams or water bodies.

All barriers will be located at least 10-feet from the perimeter of the area they are intended to protect, with the exception of those areas/conditions listed below:

- Where a berm exists adjacent to a watercourse as the result of removal of material from work on the channel, the barrier should be located on the berm, on solid material, and above the high-water zone.
- Along small stream channels or farm ditches, the barrier will be located on the same terrace or level as the adjacent farmland fields with a minimum setback of 5-feet from where the land relief dips into the channel or ditch.
- Along vertical streambanks, the barrier will be set back far enough to allow the eroding bank to assume its "natural angle of repose". For areas where the purpose of use exclusion is to enhance fisheries or wildlife values of riparian or wetland areas, barriers will be placed a sufficient distance from the shoreline, stream channel, or wetland edge to allow a zone of herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees, to become established. Once established, this vegetation will encourage shoreline or streambank stability and provide shade and cover over the water area.

When determining the width of set back for a barrier fence to exclude livestock from an area, note that grazing animals will reach through most fences, reducing the effective width of the set back zone by 2 or 3-feet.

VI. BARRIERS

Specify the barrier method(s) used to exclude use. Specifications for the construction or maintenance of the planned barrier(s) are to be included in the project design.

Fence construction will be in accord with standards and specifications for conservation practice FENCE (Code 382).

VII. BASIS OF ACCEPTANCE

During the period of exclusion, on-site visits will be conducted to determine if the method of exclusion is effective.

VIII. MAINTENANCE

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs will be performed as needed.

REFERENCES

Oregon State Department of Forestry and Department of Fish and Wildlife. 1983. Wildlife Habitat Considerations in Forest Operations.

Bohn C. 1982. The Response of Soils, Streambanks, and Instream Coliform Bacteria Levels to Grazing Management in a Riparian Area. M.S. Thesis, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.

USDA-ARS. 1982. Northwest Watershed Research Center - Interim Report No. 12, Reynolds Creek Watershed.

Trout Unlimited, Inc. 1979. Grazing and Riparian/Stream Ecosystems - Proceedings. Denver, CO.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources. 1985. Forest Riparian Habitat Study - Phase 1 Report.